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What Educators Are Saying About SB 1381 (Simitian)

"As a kindergarten teacher for the past 13 years, I know first hand the struggles our young four year olds face in trying to succeed in today's academic kindergarten setting. Not only do the kids have a difficult time learning material that is not age appropriate, but we as teachers are not adequately able to teach the entire class due to the ever increasing wide range of readiness skills."

Janice Yackovich
Bakersfield

"I have been teaching kindergarten for 17 years. Four year olds are so immature compared to five year olds. You should see the stress on these little ones when asked to know numbers to 30, read and write sentences, and know the difference between a cone, sphere and cube (Yes, those are all kindergarten standards in California!) They chew shirts, suck thumbs, and fall out of chairs with the pressure-not to mention cry! Thank you for fighting for changing the entrance age for kindergartners. I hope to see SB 1381 become a reality in our state."

Ellen Herdegen
Antioch

"Almost every child who comes to me for reading support has a fall birthday. They don't catch up somehow down the line. Instead, they end up on everyone's radar. By third grade, teachers start asking me why we didn't hold these children back. By then, we're discussing a special education intervention."

Natalie Bivas
Palo Alto

"As a teacher in California for the past 14 years, I have seen so many students struggle in school primarily due to the fact that they are just young for their grade. Since our state standards are so rigorous, many young children are not developmentally ready to learn the curriculum, so I am very excited that you have proposed this. Let's hope this becomes a law in the near future."

Kim Donoho
San Mateo

"We need SB 1381 for the health and well-being of little children. As a kindergarten teacher I see many children with September, October and November birthdays enter kindergarten excited for the adventure, but then they become frustrated because they are not ready for the pressure put on them by the high academic standards of kindergarten. They end up feeling like failures at such a tender age. Let's give them another year to mature."

Ellen Lowe
Oakdale

"I am an elementary school reading specialist, and I have been waiting for so long for legislation that would change the entry age for kindergarten. SB 1381 is welcome news and long overdue!"

Tricia Toft
Newark